

July 13, 2011

Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
383 Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Board Members:

This transmittal letter reflects the views of the First District Boundary Review Committee Members Steven J. Reyes, Sean Andrade, Alma D. Martinez, Louisa Ollague; and Second District Boundary Review Committee Members Teresa Holoman and John Choi, to address concerns regarding the County of Los Angeles' redistricting process.

We respectfully submit this letter along with leading experts' reports to communicate our dissenting opinion based on our interpretation of the Voting Rights Act, applicable judicial precedent, and application to the facts contained herein and as presented throughout the County redistricting process. During the redistricting process, compliance with the Voting Rights Act helps ensure protection of minority voting rights to avoid overconcentration and/or splitting of minority communities, with the overall goal of avoiding minority vote dilution. Minority vote dilution occurs when redistricting plans compress minority communities into a small number of districts (packing) or spread them thinly into large number of districts (fracturing or splitting). The Boundary Review Committee has failed to forward a plan that includes majority-Latino districts. Instead it chose to adopt a plan that packs Latinos in District 1 and fractures the Latino community in other areas of the County. We believe this violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

The Boundary Review Committee was presented with seven proposals that purport to comply with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and provide Latinos with an opportunity to elect candidates of choice. Each of these seven plans included two districts that contained a Latino citizen voting age population that exceeded 50% and, we believe complies with federal and state constitutional and statutory requirements. However, the Modified Benchmark Map that is being recommended to the Board of Supervisors protects incumbents and elevates other redistricting guidelines and criteria above Voting Rights Act considerations and disenfranchises the Latino community.

Recently released 2010 Census data requires Los Angeles County to redraw the lines in order to comply with the federal, state and local laws. New data revealed that Latinos comprised 47.7% of the population in Los Angeles County. Indeed, in Los Angeles County, the Latino population increased by 445,676 between 2000 and 2010 and Latinos accounted for 65% of the growth in the County. Although the data shows tremendous Latino growth, their representation on the Board of Supervisors remains unchanged as it has for the past 21 years. New population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau report that Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States.

While the Latino population is increasing, and more Latinos are seeking public office and winning seats at the local, state, and national level, the same cannot be said for Los Angeles County supervisorial districts.

During Summer 2011, the Boundary Review Committee conducted public hearings throughout the County, at which various public interest groups and others voiced general concerns regarding the redistricting process, and proposed specific changes to the District lines that were drawn after the 2000 Census. Throughout the process, written and oral testimony was collected regarding the proposed plans. Seventeen plans were submitted for consideration to the Boundary Review Committee. Seven of the seventeen maps create two Section 2 Districts and preserve the core of the African American District.

- Estrada (H2): The Fourth District becomes a new Latino district in the San Gabriel Valley; the other new Latino District includes communities such as Pasadena.
- Estrada (J1): The new First District includes the San Fernando Valley and Southeast Los Angeles; the Fourth District includes all of the San Gabriel Valley.
- Clayton/Wong (M1): The new First District includes the San Fernando Valley and Southeast Los Angeles; the new Fourth District includes San Gabriel Valley cities with the exceptions of Monterey Park, Rosemead, Temple City, and Arcadia.
- Clayton/Velasquez (NI): The new First District includes the San Fernando Valley without Reseda; the new Fourth District includes the San Gabriel Valley with the exceptions of Monterey Park, Rosemead, Temple City and Arcadia.
- MALDEF (Q1): Partial Submission: The new District includes the San Gabriel Valley, Southeast Los Angeles, and Vernon; the second Latino District includes Pico Rivera, and the City of Los Angeles to the San Fernando Valley area.
- MALDEF (R1): Partial Submission: The new District includes the San Gabriel Valley, Lynwood, Paramount, and Bellflower.
- Harris-Dawson (S1): The African American Community Coalition Map includes the new First District with Southeast Los Angeles to the San Fernando Valley; the new Fourth District includes Lakewood, surrounding communities, and San Gabriel Valley cities.

Additionally, testimony by community members and comments by Commissioners underscored the significance of *Garza v. County of Los Angeles*, 918 F.2d 763 (9th Cir. 1991). In *Garza*, the United States District Court found that the County of Los Angeles intentionally diluted Latino political power and that Latino demographic growth was sufficient to warrant the drawing of a district that would provide a fair opportunity for Latino voters and candidates.

The information contained in the report presented by Professor Justin Levitt at today's meeting includes compelling testimony that significant evidence of racially polarized voting exists in Los Angeles County. This evidence of racially polarized voting, as set forth in the preliminary report of Professor Matt A. Barreto, confirms much of the concerns shared by persons and organizations that have presented redistricting proposals that have included two districts that have a Latino citizen voting age population of 50%.

The minor proposed changes to the existing Map stand in sharp contrast to the seven alternative plans purporting to comply with the Voting Rights Act presented to the Boundary Review Committee. The current Map being considered by the Committee, by making only minor adjustments, is not sufficient to adequately represent Latinos and the needs of San Gabriel Valley communities and San Fernando Valley communities. Adoption of the Map proposed by the Boundary Review Committee will result in the continued underrepresentation of Latinos. The analysis contained herein justifies the creation of two effective Districts, while preserving an effective African American District in a manner that complies with the Voting Rights Act.

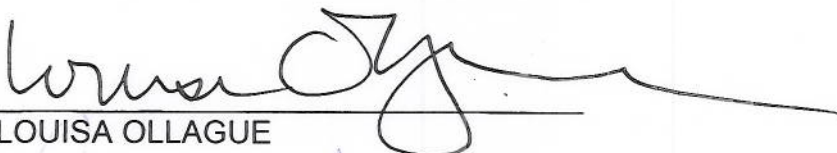
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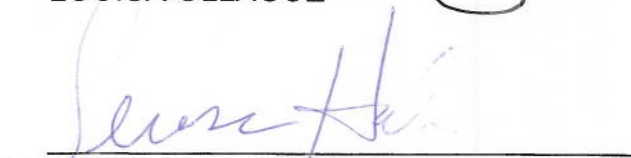
We therefore present this transmittal letter along with analysis by leading experts that provides additional details and data of interest to the Board of Supervisors.

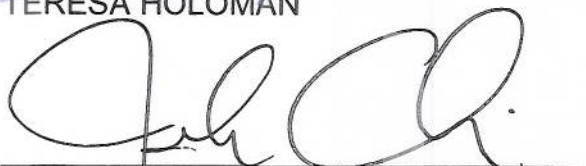
  
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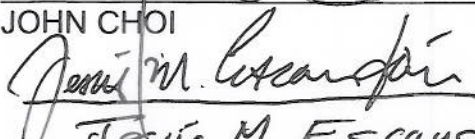
 7/13/11  
STEVEN J. REYES

  
ALMA D. MARTINEZ

  
LOUISA OLLAGUE

  
TERESA HOLOMAN

  
JOHN CHOI

  
Jesus M. Escandon

## ~~AM~~ Insertion to Letter

Additionally, Plan S1, as discussed in Professor Levitt's analysis, was drawn with consideration of public input as provided to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and takes into account established communities of interest. Electronic testimony supporting drawing 2 VRA Latino seats, will be provided on request.